Equipment of Chinese vendor

2901. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government is taking to ensure proper testing and security audit of telecom network and equipment supplied by Chinese vendor, Huawei, being installed in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The Government has issued instructions to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for security audit to the effect that networks and its elements are free from any trapdoors/black boxes/malwares and are not susceptible to remote hacking, irrespective of origin of manufacturing, before operationalisation.

Effect of global economic recession on IT industry

2902. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the global economic recession has any effect upon the IT industry; and

(b) number of people working in this sector that have lost their jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) The Indian IT and ITES/BPO sector has witnessed some slow down in comparison to its historical rate of growth. It is estimated that the growth rate of the IT and ITES sector during 2008-09 would be 16.3% as compared to around 30% in the last few years. The total export revenue of this sector is estimated at US$ 47 billion in 2008-09, as compared to US$ 40.4 billion in 2007-08.

(b) As per the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the IT and IT Enabled Services/BPO Sector remains a net hirer. During the Financial Year 2008-09, the direct employment in this sector is estimated to reach nearly 2.23 millions from 2.0 millions in the previous year.

Facilities in Post Offices

†2903. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in urban and rural areas which are equipped with e-mail, internet and computer facilities;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.